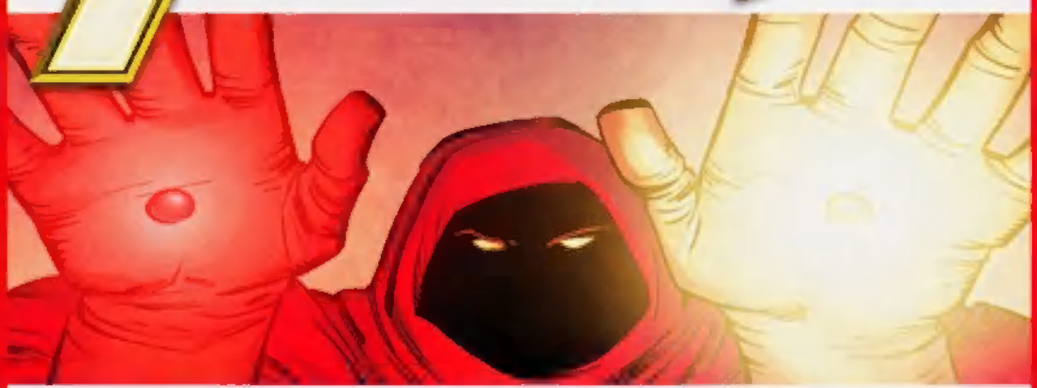
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT FOES THAT NO SINGLE HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

THE AVENGERS

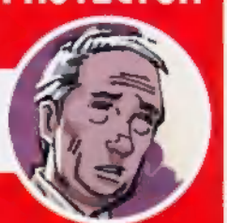


IRON MAN

HAWKEYE

SPIDER-WOMAN

THE PROTECTOR



JARVIS

THOR

WOLVERINE

SPIDER-MAN

THE RED HULK

MARIA HILL

THE AVENGERS! WOLVERINE, IRON MAN, SPIDER-MAN, THOR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, SPIDER-WOMAN, THE PROTECTOR AND HAWKEYE ARE HANDPICKED BY STEVE ROGERS TO LEAD THE PREMIER AVENGERS TEAM!

AFTER AN AMAZING POWER-PLAY FOR CONTROL OF THE CRIMINAL EMPIRES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, PARKER ROBBINS A.K.A. THE HOOD IS DEPOWERED AND IMPRISONED BY THE AVENGERS. BUT NOW, HE IS ON A QUEST FOR THE HIDDEN INFINITY GEMS.

THESE GEMS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO SECRET LOCATIONS BY THE ILLUMINATI - A SECRET ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL HEROES: FORMER SORCERER SUPREME, DOCTOR STRANGE; BLACK BOLT, KING OF THE INHUMANS; CHARLES XAVIER, FOUNDER OF THE X-MEN; REED RICHARDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR; NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER, RULER OF ATLANTIS; AND IRON MAN, FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE AVENGERS. TO KEEP THE TRUST BETWEEN THE GROUP MEMBERS, THE ILLUMINATI'S EXISTENCE IS A SECRET TO EVERYONE, INCLUDING THEIR TEAMMATES AND FAMILY.

THESE SIX MEN HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO MOLD AND SHAPE THE STATUS OF THE SUPERHUMAN WORLD AND THE WORLD AROUND IT, INCLUDING HIDING THE COSMIC INFINITY GEMS.

BUT PARKER ROBBINS DISCOVERED THEIR SECRET AND HAS ALREADY GATHERED TWO OF THEM. AND WHEN THE ILLUMINATI GATHER TO TRY TO DISCOVER HOW THIS HAS HAPPENED, THE AVENGERS DISCOVER THEM.

WITH THEIR FRAGILE NEW TRUST NOW SHATTERED, STEVE ROGERS KICKS IRON MAN OUT OF THE AVENGERS.

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WELCOME TO XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, FORMER HOME OF MY X-MEN.
IT'S STILL SO ODD TO SEE THE SCHOOL CLOSED.
TIMES CHANGE, HENRY.
WHERE'D YOU HIDE THE THING, CHARLIE? IN THE BACKYARD?
FOLLOW ME.
THE BACKYARD WOULD BE THE EASY THING. ANY CHANCE IT'S THE EASY THING?
AFTER YOU, LOGAN.
YEAH, I DIDN'T THINK SO.
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK.

OKAY, A BIG EMPTY ROOM.
THIS WAS THE DANGER ROOM, MISS HILL.
LOVE THE NAME.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
THIS IS WHERE THE X-MEN USED TO TRAIN.
WE HAD SOME DAMN GOOD TIMES IN HERE.
A LITTLE ON THE BARE BONES SIDE.
YEAH, RIGHT.
WHAT AM I MISSING?

THE PROGRAM WAS CREATED TO STOP WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO DO FROM HAPPENING.
SPECIFICALLY.
THE PROGRAM WAS CREATED TO FIGHT US TO THE DEATH IF NEED BE.
WE'RE ENTERING A PROGRAM?
YES. AND--
AND YOU CAN'T JUST TURN OFF THE PROGRAM?
NO.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?

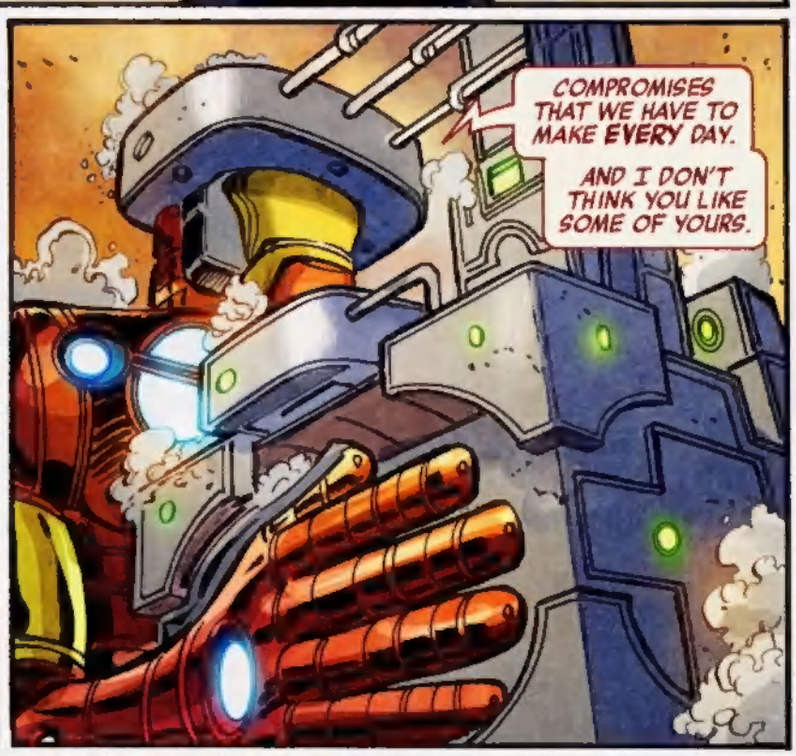
BELIEVE ME, HENRY, THIS IS NOT PART OF THE LIFE I HAD SET OUT FOR MYSELF.
SHAKT!
SURE IT IS, CHUCKIE.
SRCRACK
I WANTED TO BE A SCHOOL TEACHER.
FOLLOW ME.
THERE?
THERE.
YOU SHALL NOT PASS.
THIS IS THE HARD PART, INNIT?
VERY MUCH SO.

OUTSIDE.
HEY...
HEY...
I'M ANT-MAN.
I KNOW.
YOU'RE IRON FIST, HUH.
I KNOW THAT TOO.
I'M ON THE COVERT OPS AVENGERS TEAM.
YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE TELLING PEOPLE THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU--LIKE, ONE OF THE NEW AVENGERS?
KEEP LOOKING TO THE SKY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY STUCK US ON SENTRY DUTY.
SOMEONE'S GOT TO KEEP AN EYE OUT.
THEY JUST DON'T WANT ME DOWN THERE DOING THE FUN STUFF.
I GET THE FEELING SOME OF THEM THINK I'M ANNOYING.
HEY, IS SPIDER-WOMAN SINGLE? DO YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE I GOT TO SAY, THAT IS SOME TOP GRADE KIND OF--
CAN WE JUST FOCUS ON OUR TASK?
I WONDER IF STEVE ROGERS HAS KILLED TONY STARK YET.
OR VICE VERSA, YOU KNOW?

YOU OWN AREA 51?
SINCE WHEN?
THE GOVERNMENT QUIETLY PUT IT UP FOR SALE AND I BOUGHT IT.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BROKE.
MY BROKE IS NOT THE SAME AS YOUR BROKE.
AND THIS WAS YEARS AGO.

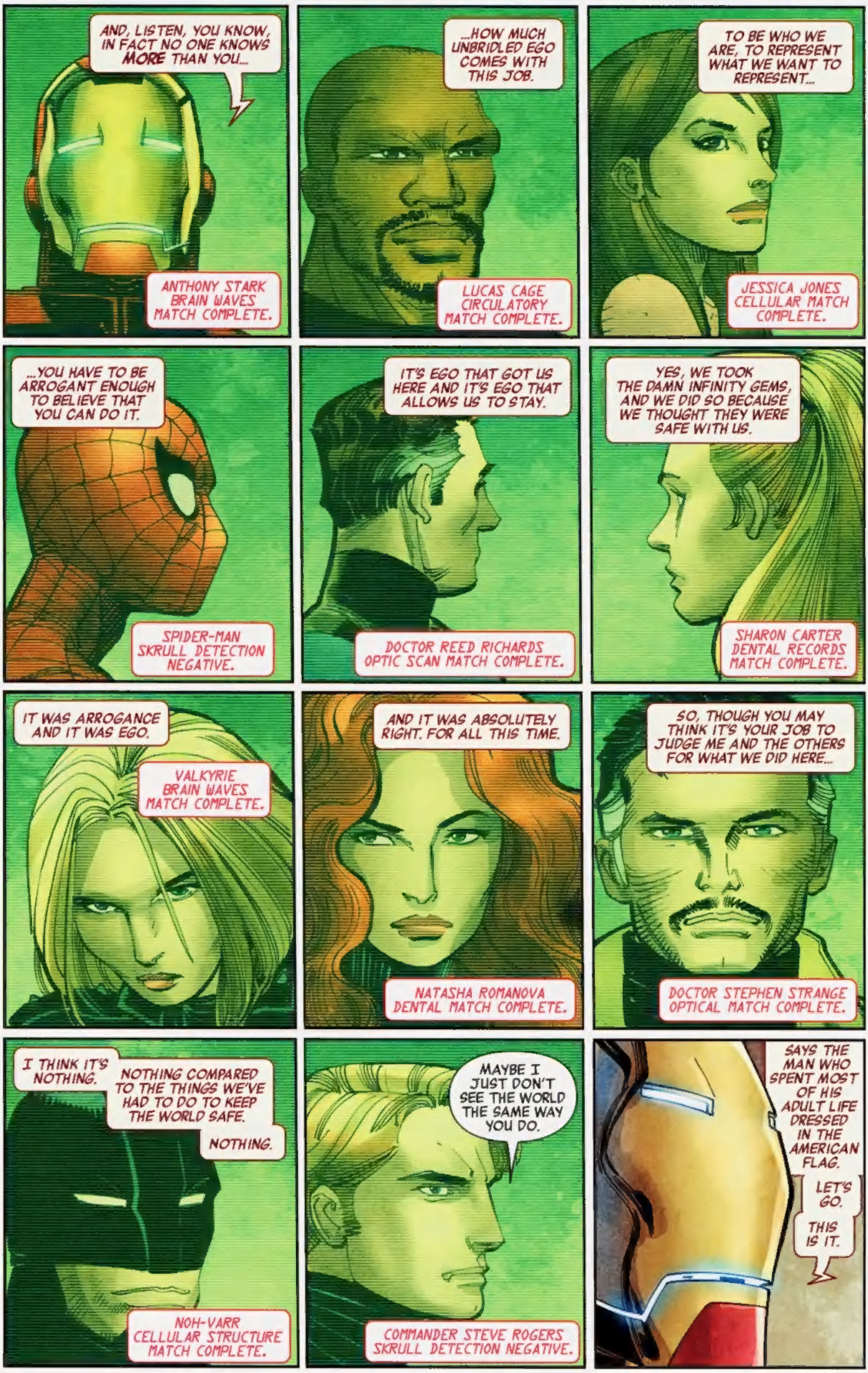
LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH.
YOU KNOW, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S BOTHERING ME ABOUT THIS WHOLE THING.
WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU IS THAT I'M RIGHT.

WHAT'S BOTHERING ME IS THAT I THINK YOU'RE MORE MAD AT YOU THAN YOU ARE AT ME.
WE'VE MADE HARD CHOICES IN OUR LIVES.
WE'VE ALL MADE HARD CHOICES.
THIS LIFE THAT WE'VE CHOSEN--THIS LIFE--IT COMES WITH INSANE CHOICES THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE EVERY DAY.
TONY STARK VOICE PRINT IDENTIFIED.
WELCOME, TONY.


COMPROMISES THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE EVERY DAY.
AND I DON'T THINK YOU LIKE SOME OF YOURS.

WELL, THAT IS JUST--
HOLD ON--WE SHOULD LEAVE SOME SURFACE LEVEL RECON. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR MYSTERY GUEST.
YES.
HAWKEYE, MOCKINGBIRD, THING. YOU STAY TOP-SIDE.
BOO.
I MEAN, YES, SIR.

I'M JUST HAPPY FER THE QUIET.
GUESS I'LL HEAD TO THE ROOF.
HAVE FUN, DEAR.
YOU'RE COMING TOO.
IT'S CUTE THAT YOU THINK SO.


AND, LISTEN, YOU KNOW, IN FACT NO ONE KNOWS MORE THAN YOU...
ANTHONY STARK BRAIN WAVES MATCH COMPLETE.
...HOW MUCH UNBRIDLED EGO COMES WITH THIS JOB.
LUCAS CAGE CIRCULATORY MATCH COMPLETE.
TO BE WHO WE ARE, TO REPRESENT WHAT WE WANT TO REPRESENT...
JESSICA JONES CELLULAR MATCH COMPLETE.
...YOU HAVE TO BE ARROGANT ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN DO IT.
SPIDER-MAN SKRULL DETECTION NEGATIVE.
IT'S EGO THAT GOT US HERE AND IT'S EGO THAT ALLOWS US TO STAY.
DOCTOR REED RICHARDS OPTIC SCAN MATCH COMPLETE.
YES, WE TOOK THE DAMN INFINITY GEMS, AND WE DID SO BECAUSE WE THOUGHT THEY WERE SAFE WITH US.
SHARON CARTER DENTAL RECORDS MATCH COMPLETE.
IT WAS ARROGANCE AND IT WAS EGO.
VALKYRIE BRAIN WAVES MATCH COMPLETE.
AND IT WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. FOR ALL THIS TIME.
NATASHA ROMANOVA DENTAL MATCH COMPLETE.
SO, THOUGH YOU MAY THINK IT'S YOUR JOB TO JUDGE ME AND THE OTHERS FOR WHAT WE DID HERE...
DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE OPTICAL MATCH COMPLETE.
I THINK IT'S NOTHING.
NOTHING COMPARED TO THE THINGS WE'VE HAD TO DO TO KEEP THE WORLD SAFE.
NOTHING.
NOH-VARR CELLULAR STRUCTURE MATCH COMPLETE.
MAYBE I JUST DON'T SEE THE WORLD THE SAME WAY YOU DO.
COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS SKRULL DETECTION NEGATIVE.
SAYS THE MAN WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE DRESSED IN THE AMERICAN FLAG.
LET'S GO.
THIS IS IT.

HUH.
OKAY.
AND WHY DID WE END UP HERE, WHER-EVER HERE IS?
OH.
WELL...
NICE WEATHER FOR IT.
TO BE CONTINUED...